

Heneral Luna Review

By Daniel Kenneth Villanueva

Heneral Luna seemed to be superior in terms of production quality, acting and music. Some parts of the script seem to have some elements left to be desired.

The scene where Antonio Luna and his lover were talking to each other personally before bedtime seems to have some sense of an abusive relationship. The lover of Antonio Luna reprimanded him for having a battle wound on his chest. His mother reprimanded him for joining the war in the first place because he already had a high amount of education in a foreign country. Antonio Luna replied here that it is due to him being educated on freedom that made him want to fight for the Philippines in the first place.

Antonio Luna's nationalism relies on the Filipinos taking a defensive stand against the Americans. He tries to enforce a strong amount of discipline to his soldiers and takes insubordination very seriously. His being overaggressive also led to his downfall because he has created so many enemies in the regime. I also found it discordant that he would fall for a letter saying that Emilio Aguinaldo is creating a new cabinet. In the earlier depictions, he is portrayed as a man with peerless intellect however here, he trusted Emilio Aguinaldo so much that he did not care to take necessary precautions.

Emilio Aguinaldo in here is portrayed as a leader who only wants the best for the Philippines, even if it meant compromising between the forces that want American rule and the forces that want Philippine independence. Emilio Aguinaldo here is also portrayed as also a person which Antonio Luna must play around so that things would go as Antonio Luna has planned, especially when it comes to building trenches. The part where Emilio Aguinaldo said he did not kill Antonio Luna seemed to be a deceit created by Emilio Aguinaldo because it was shown after he was briefed that Antonio Luna is planning to usurp him.

Apolinario Mabini was only relegated to being a confidante of Emilio Aguinaldo. Apolinario Mabini is a person who is always close to Emilio Aguinaldo's side.

Pedro Paterno is portrayed in the story as an antagonist. He was portrayed as a person who will eagerly surrender to the Americans if it protects his interests. Even though he wanted Antonio Luna to be killed, he was still nevertheless initially horrified by the assassination.

Overall, the four characters showed their desire for Philippines to be a prosperous nation where Filipinos reign. Antonio Luna is more on the side of Filipino independence. Emilio Aguinaldo and Antonio Mabini wanted a compromise between both sides. Pedro Paterno wanted a Philippines where Filipinos would reign under American rule.

The scene that struck me the most was the assassination of Antonio Luna. This is because before he received the letter to come to Cabanatuan, I thought that he was a leader that would not simply fall for any trap. I thought that he would die with his fellow soldiers beside him.

References

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